

NATURAL SETTING Pocahontas County

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CHAPTER THREE.

*Roscoe W. Brown,
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Part 1)
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GAULEY RIVER;- The Gauley River drainage is of minor importance of to Pocahontas County except that it has its source within the bounds of Pocahontas County limits, in three branches - North Fork, South Fork, and Middle Fork, - high up in the west side of the ^{ye w} ~~new~~ and Gauley Mountains. Flowing west across the acute angle of the southern end of Randolph County these three forks unite at Three Forks of Gauley at the Randolph- Webster County line and there the main Gauley continues in a general south west direction, draining, with its tributaries, all of Webster County south of Elk River. It continues well entrenched, across Webster and Nicholas Counties, to unite with New River at Gauley Bridge, Fayette County, to form the Great Kanawaha. Its principal tributaries within the area touching Pocahontas are Cherry, Cranberry, and Williams Rivers.

The Gauley River has an entire length of 104 miles, as it meanders in its a natural course; but has an air line distance of only 59.2 miles, with a total fall of 3,352 feet or at the average rate of 32.23 feet per mile. And according to the Geological Survey for Webster County, has a drainage area of 1350.37 square miles.

CHERRY RIVER OF THE GAULEY.

The Cherry River heads in two forks, North and South, in south west Pocahontas County, and flows west across northern Greenbrier County into Nicholas County, to join Gauley River at Curtain. The Cherry River in Pocahontas County has a drainage area basin of 5.20 square miles.

How the River got the name of "GAULEY" or what it signifies, is a question that is vague, and obscure. Some folks are of the opinion that it was so named by the French explorers, nothing could be more natural for French explorers to call this beautiful stream Gaule after the ancient name of France.

But there is a current tradition handed down by the early pioneers of the Gauley River section, that there was a Scotch Irish pioneer hunting, and first coming out on the Rocky bluff above the mouth of Meadow River,

And was so surprised at seeing such a large River, that he used a slang phrase to give vent to his surprised feeling, at his first sight of the River, by saying "GOLLY" what a River! and from which the word Gauley was coined; .

Gauley River was called by the Miamis Indians, Chin-que-ta-na-cepe-we; And by the Deleware, To-ke-bel-lo-ke, or Falling Creek.

ANTHONY CREEK:- Anthony Creek, the largest tributary of the Greenbrier River has its source in the Greenbrier County near the Pocahontas County line and the greater part of its drainage in Greenbrier County. It heads in the Allegheny Mountain in the extreme north east corner of Greenbrier County but flows north west into Pocahontas County for a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles when it swings south west to enter Greenbrier County again and continues in this direction to Alton. Here it swings more to the West cutting a deep gorge between Beaver Lick and Greenbrier Mountains to join the Greenbrier River at Anthony.

It has a total length of 28.65 miles with a fall of 1470 feet, at a rate of 51.3 feet per mile. It has a total drainage area basin of 146, 93 square miles.

Only 3.7 miles of its length is in Pocahontas County, with a drainage area of 6.52 square miles.

NORTH FORK OF ANTHONY CREEK;- The North Fork of Anthony Creek has the greater part of its drainage in Greenbrier County, but heads on Beaver Lick Mountain in Pocahontas County. It flows in a south west direction between Beaver Lick and Middle Mountains to a point $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from its mouth where it swings due South to terminate the Middle Mountain, and join Anthony Creek at Neola, it has a total length of 12.45 miles with a drainage area of 22.77 square miles.

The North Fork of Anthony Creek in Pocahontas County is 5 miles long, with a fall of 825 feet with a rate of fall per mile of 165 feet. and has a drainage area of 1.14 square miles.

Anthony Creek received its name from a friendly Indian by the name of ANTHONY

INDIAN DRAFT : - The Indian Draft , is a small branch that rises in the Elk Mountain South of Gay Knob and flows in a southerly direction to connect with Stony Creek at Campbell Town, a total distance of 5.2 miles and has a fall of 1060 feet, with a rate of fall of 203.8 feet per mile, and has a drainage area of 7.49 square miles .

The Indian Draft: is one of the small branches of Pocahontas County , that carries with it , more historical incidents , in its vicinity than any other small branch in the County; And in order to give an idea of the many events that have actually happened , upon, and around about the Indian Draft , and which has lead to the naming of the " INDIAN Draft, a few of the ^{incidents} are found in a letter written by Calvin W. Price, in The Pocahontas Times bearing date of April 10 th 1941

Which is hereby given in full:

I have been asked to write some things I know about the Indian Draft. A draft is a narrow valley between two leading ridges. Indian Draft reaches from Elk Mountain to Stony Creek at Campbell Town. The Indians travelled it; the trails forked just below Edray. One trace, a section of the War Path from New York to Georgia went by Edray to cross Elk Mountain , and the other to Clover Lick., The first roads followed Indian trails, and our highways still do, more or less. When the Marlin Bottom and Huttonsville Turnpike nearly a century ago, the route was taken up on Drennin Ridge, as accommodation to homes and farms on the ridge rather than up the water grade of the narrow Draft where no one lived below the forks.

I recall hearing back in my childhood some of the older people speaking of small bands of Indians camping at the mouth of the Indian Draft . These Indians were traveling back and forth from Ohio to Washington. The lands around the Edray branch of the Indian Draft were first opened by Thomas Drennan. The tract embraced thousands of acres I know now that the site of the Drennin cabin was by a spring on the land of Squire A.R.Gay. In my young days no one was supposed to know exactly where the pioneer home stood , as it marked the beginning corner of one of the immense land grants, the Gallagher Survey. These Grants was the bane of settlers, casting shadow on land titles until the courts definitely decided that the best possible title was ten years

uninterrupted possession under fence. My recollection of the Gallagher Survey is ~~the~~ the first call from the Drinnen cabin was a straight line to a black sugar in the low place on Clover Creek Mountain, eight or more miles away. I do not now recall the bearing. I can ~~only~~ remember when only a black hearted traitor would point out a known corner to one of these old land grants. I recall hearing of an ex-Confederate soldier working all day Sunday to dig out, split up and burn of a great red oak, back on Gallagher Flat on Days Mountain because it was a known corner of the Gallagher Survey. The home of Thomas Drennon was broked up by Indians.

His wife was taken captive and murdered on Elk Mountain a few miles from her home. I have heard that this Indian Raid was prior the Revolution, though 1797 was probably the year.

Late the Drennon homestead passed into possession of ~~the~~ Robert Moore, son of the pioneer Moses Moore. It is likely that the first time Robert Moore set foot on the lands some day to be his own was when as a boy he came from the east, now Rockbridge County, with his father and others in the pursuit of French Surveyors and their Indian Guides. At the forks of Indian Draft the Frenchmen were ambushed. An Indian was killed and a Frenchman was wounded. Some fifty years since human remains were unearthed near the forks of the Draft.

The dispersion of the exploring party might have originated some of the legends of buried treasure on Indian Draft and in several not distant localities-- Cloverlick Marlinton, Stony Creek, and Millpoint. Near the mouth of Indian Draft on the Greenbrier River was the home of Lawrence Drennan, a brother of Thomas Drennon.

In 1784 Indians made a raid on his home. Henry Baker was shot and killed as he was climbing a fence, returning from his morning wash. Richard Hill jumped the fence and escaped unhurt. John and James Bridger were killed in the same Indian Raid.

Patrick Slater was the School teacher in the family at that time. School House meadow is not far from the mouth of Indian Draft.

In 1765 Indians raided the Bath Alum settlement in what is now Bath County. The Indians started back to the Ohio with prisoners, among them a Mrs Mayse, her son Joseph, a white girl, name now unknown, a Mrs Sloan and her infant daughter. The third night the Indians ^{descended} 3 miles down Knappe Creek from Huntersville. on the Fourth day the